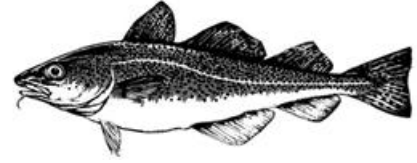


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Mark Stichert
Groundfish Management Biologist

Westward Region
211 Mission Road
Kodiak Alaska, 99615

Phone: (907) 486-1840
Fax: (907) 486-1824

Date Issued: 3/21/12

**CLOSURE ANNOUNCED FOR THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA AREA
STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD POT SEASON**

EMERGENCY ORDER 4-GF-09-12

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season will close for all vessels using pot gear at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 22, 2012. Inseason catch estimates indicate the pot gear guideline harvest level (GHL) will be attained at the time of the closure.

Fishermen are reminded that all pots must be unbaited and doors open at the time of the closure. Pots may be legally stored in waters deeper than 25 fathoms with doors open and bait and bait containers removed for seven days following the closure. Operators are required to be at their unloading destination within 48 hours of the closure.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.